

Sunday Night Message

September 12, 2020

2 Samuel 22 – David's Song

Topics – David

Series – 2 Samuel

Introduction

Chapter twenty-two is an account of David's song of praise after being delivered from all of his enemies, including King Saul. This song may have been written after David's fall into sin with Bathsheba, which took place during the second campaign against the Ammonites. However, all of the subsequent problems that developed as a result of David's sin, including the rebellions of Absalom and Sheba would have taken place after this song was written and sung.

It is also possible that this psalm was written before David's sin because of what David states about himself in verses 21 – 25. If that is true, then all of David's enemies were not yet completely eradicated, but perhaps most were.

McGee believes that this psalm was written at the very end of David's life, after even the internal rebellions of Absalom and Sheba were put away. He also believe that the 23rd Psalm was written about this same time.

Chronologically, this song would be placed before bringing the ark to Jerusalem.

This song is also included in the Psalms (Psalm 18), in an almost identical form.

This song is the longest quotation directly attributed to David. It is 365 words in Hebrew.¹

I. David's Resolve to Trust in the Lord (vs. 1 – 6; 49 - 50)

In the parallel version of this from Psalm 18, David states:

"[To the chief Musician, [A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,]] I will love thee, O LORD, my strength." (Psalm 18:1)

Wiersbe believes: "It's likely that 2 Samuel 22 is the original version, but when the song was adapted for corporate worship David wrote a new opening: 'I will love thee, O Lord, my strength'" (Ps. 18:1 KJV).²

In him will I trust (v. 3)

It is easy to trust the Lord when you are flying high. Not so much when you are in a valley:

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (Psalm 56:3)

¹ Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 450.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Restored*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), 136–137.

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15)

"In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." (Psalm 56:4)

I will call on the Lord (v. 4)

"As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me." (Psalm 55:16)

"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." (Psalm 86:5)

"I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD." (Psalm 116:13)

"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." (Psalm 145:18)

These first two have to do with David's declaration of dependence upon the Lord. Prayer is a declaration of dependence.

The following two are a reflection of David's appreciation for what the Lord had done for him.

I will give thanks (v. 50)

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)

"Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness." (Psalm 97:12 KJV)

I will sing praises (v. 50)

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises." (Psalm 47:6 KJV)

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." (Psalm 147:1 KJV)

David's attitude toward God was as much an act of the will as it was an expression of the way he felt. David loved God, not only with his emotions, but also with his actions.

Contrast David's "I wills" with Lucifer's in Isaiah 14:

*"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isaiah 14:12-15)*

All of Satan's "I wills" were about an exaltation of himself. All of David's were about an exaltation of the Lord.

II. God's Reply to David's Testings (vs. 7 – 20)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." - (Jeremiah 33:3)

God delivered David again and again from his enemies. Why?

Because David's was God's choice for King.

David was doing what God called him to do.

When you and I find God's will for our lives and submit to it faithfully, then we will see God do the same thing for us. He will prosper us in the things that he has called us to do.

He will not, however, cause us to succeed when we are doing our own thing.

III. David's Record of Trust is Defended (vs. 21 – 28)

David was positionally righteous because of his faith in the Lord, but David's life also revealed that his faith was practical as well as positional.

Positional righteousness has to do with salvation. We are not righteous because of our works, but because the Lord died for our sins and we trusted in His righteousness.

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:" (Romans 3:20-22)

However, once we are saved, God transforms us from the inside out.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 1:6)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

David had a real faith in that worked its way out of him.

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20)

God does not save anybody by their obedience, but he does bless the Christian (and the nation) that is in submission to Him. David is not bragging on his flesh here, but he is stating a fact that God had protected him and prospered him as he walked by faith.

Note – we have a tough time reconciling David’s record of events with the account of Bathsheba and Uriah. Either this song was written prior to David’s fall, or this song was written after an event that was uncharacteristic for David, and was thoroughly repented of.

Each of us have events in our lives that we are not proud of, and we are thankful that the Lord remembers them no more. (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17)

IV. David Recalls the Trials and Victory of the Lord (vs. 29 – 51)

One thing is very clear as David sums up his experience as the king of God’s people – David gives all of the glory to the Lord. He doesn’t try to steal any of the glory away from the Lord.

If you and I remain faithful in fulfilling God’s will – doing the things that God has called us to do, then we will be able to look back upon our walk with the Lord as David is doing here, and we will be able to say many of the same things that David is saying here. But, like David, all of the glory will go to the Lord.